

Narrative Writing Features

Guiding Questions for Conferencing

Focus

Clearly established focus throughout the narrative

1. What is the most important thing or the main event that happens in your story?
2. Does the story stay focused on the most important thing/main event?
3. Are there any ideas or events in your story that are not important to the main event?

Organization

Logical progression and relatedness of ideas

1. Does your story have a clear beginning, middle, and end?
2. Are the ideas and actions connected to each other?
3. Can your reader follow the story logically from beginning to end?
4. Is the story complete? Does the story feel finished?

Support and Elaboration

Extensions and development of the main topic

1. Is your story developed with specific details that are related to the main event?
2. Do all of the details move the story along?
3. Does your story have enough elaboration so that your reader can see and feel what is happening? Can you show me an example where your reader can see or feel what is happening?

Style

Use of language that is appropriate to the topic

1. Did you choose just the right words for your purpose?
2. Have you used precise words instead of over-used words?
3. Did you use a variety of sentences that flow?

Conventions

Correct sentence formation, usage, mechanics, and spelling

1. Are your sentences complete?
 - Do you have any sentence fragments that need to be completed?
 - Do you have run-on sentences?
2. Does your story demonstrate standard usage?
 - Is there subject-verb agreement?
 - Is there consistency in verb tense?
 - Are pronouns used correctly?
 - Are all your words used correctly?
3. Are punctuation, capitalization, spelling, and paragraphs used correctly in your story?
 - Does your punctuation make your story hard to read?
 - Have you used capital letters for the first word in a sentence and for proper nouns?
 - Have you spelled most common words correctly?
 - Do misspelled words in your story make it hard to read?
 - Have you used paragraphs appropriately?